

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 15, 1891.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SAWYER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 2434.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2434) granting a pension to Franc E. Babbitt, have examined the same and report:

The House report on which this bill was passed is as follows:

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2434) granting a pension to Franc E. Babbitt, submit the following report:

Franc E. Babbitt is the sister of George S. Babbitt, late lieutenant-colonel of the Twenty-third Indiana Infantry.

Colonel Babbitt entered the service as a captain and remained until the close of the war; he ran the blockade at Vicksburg as volunteer commander of the *J. W. Cheeseman*, manned by a volunteer crew from his company, remaining under fire for six hours, and the vessel was struck many times by cannon balls and grape, canister, and musketry beyond mention; the consort of the *Cheeseman* was relieved and rescued. Colonel Babbitt took part in all the battles under Grant, beginning at Belmont and ending at Vicksburg; he was in the battles about Atlanta; marched with Sherman to the sea. He contracted pulmonary disease in the Army and died after a lingering consumption June 22, 1869. He was never married; his mother died when he was a babe, and his father while he was a small boy. The sister was a mother to the boy and raised him. When he grew up he contributed to his sister's support until he became unable to do any kind of work. She is the heir at law; she cared for him in infancy and during his long illness; the soldier would not apply for a pension during his lifetime. The sister is sixty-five years of age, broken in health from her long care of the gallant soldier; she is without income, being dependent upon her exertions.

General Gresham, on whose staff the soldier served, in a letter to Mr. O'Donnell, the author of the bill, testifies to the services of Colonel Babbitt as a faithful and valuable officer; he approves the proposition to have the sister pensioned by act of Congress. Gen. Lew Wallace, who served with the soldier, also favors such action.

In view of these facts, and as it has become customary to grant pensions in cases of this nature, your committee recommend the passage of the bill.

The bill is reported with an amendment striking out all after the word "infantry" in the seventh line, and inserting "Subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws," and as so amended the bill is reported favorably, with a recommendation that it do pass.